

Introduction:

At Oscar, we understand the importance of looking after our planet and the impact we as a business have on our environment, that's why we are committed towards reducing our Carbon Footprint and becoming a company that helps to build a more sustainable world for everyone. We're pleased to say we're already making the right moves as 90% of our staff are home based and do not have a daily commute, therefore making our overall emissions relatively low and for those staff based in our Headquarters in Torquay, 50% of travel is by shared electric car, and the remaining 50% by petrol car. Our energy supply at our Head Office is provided by a Green Energy supplier, something we've done for the past 3 years and will continue to do so into the future.

We know that it's easy to say things but much harder to do them, so we've asked ourselves a few simple questions to help build upon our already low footprint: what, why, how and when.

What should we do in order to make a difference?

We are looking to offset our Carbon Footprint and to help give back to the planet, but in order to make this achievable we first need to know what our impact is. We have chosen to start by compiling a yearly report on our energy and emissions so we know what our carbon footprint is and can work towards reducing and offsetting this. Simple procedures like checking our toilet systems, taps and pipes for leaks. Checking our electricity usage at home and in the office, taking note of our travel patterns and how often we're contributing to reducing our Carbon Footprint and then start by making small changes in our everyday lives.

But how are we going to do this?

By keeping track of our energy usage quarterly and by recording any mileage by staff over the same period, then using one of the many Carbon Calculators available we will know what our impact is, how much we can reduce and finally how much we can offset. We can then look to keep this target, and where possible improve it year on year. By training our staff to be smarter with their use of water in our homes and in the office and replacing any old taps and toilet flush systems with more efficient ones to keep on top of efficient use of water. Using public transport/ car sharing where possible and keeping any unnecessary travel to a minimum. Simple actions such as switching off lights and appliances when we leave a room or finish using something, can all have a positive impact. Recycling at home and the office will also help reduce our impact on the

environment. Using energy efficient light bulbs and appliances - we've already changed our lighting system at the office to more energy efficient ones.

Why is this important?

Quite simply, as a business we have a moral and ethical responsibility to protect our planet and to be part of a positive impact in tackling Climate Change. We also believe that if everyone “*talked the talk*” but then didn’t “*walk the walk*”, nothing would change, so here at Oscar we’re stepping out and walking!

When are we making change happen?

This year sees the start of our Carbon Reduction & Offsetting plan, this includes reducing our emissions, reducing our water usage and pledging towards conservation and sustainability programs like tree planting schemes and local seagrass conservation projects. We are currently in discussions with a local conservation charity regarding supporting some of their projects and are really hopeful of some collaboration with them during the year!

Whilst this sounds like a good start, what else can we do?

As of August 2025 we joined the Stripe Climate programme with 1% of client card purchases being donated to this initiative. See our website for annual updates on this.

UPDATES:

Carbon footprint calculation updated 31/11/25 - Based on travel of staff to HQ by car and electricity used at HQ over the past 12 months, this being **Total = 1.94 tonnes of CO_{2e}.***

***this does not take into account gas emissions due to being included in lease of offices nor travel by any other means other than car due to home working.**